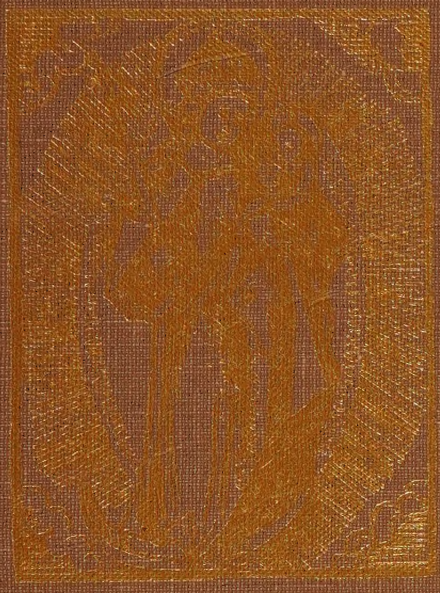

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IN THE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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IN THE DAY OF THE
NATIVITY OF THE LORD

AT COMPLINE

ACCORDING
TO THE USE OF
THE ILLUSTRIOUS AND
EXCELLENT
CHURCH OF SARUM

1516

INTRODUCTION

Marking the rising of the sun, midday, sunset and night fall have been woven deeply within the fabric of the human spirit. The Druids, the Egyptian cultures, teutonic nomads, native Americans all share this common observance. Likewise they note the growing shortness of the days as the winter solstice approaches, and they observe moments of equinox.

While there may be a tendency to say these practices do not fit our culture, the truth of the matter bears careful study. For although our technology has freed us from the rising and setting of the sun, the pace of our days is still guided by them. We rise to work and as the evening comes our pace changes to meet family values. The very quickening and slowing of our day is bound to the world's rhythm and the changing pattern of light.

This marking of time has also been deeply part of Religious tradition. The Jewish people gathered for prayer at daybreak, midday, late afternoon and night fall. But the gathering was in God's name. They rose for prayer as the temple priests offered sacrifice: the cereal offering, holocaust and the offering of incense. Their prayer was joined to that of the priests.

The Christian community was challenged by

Christ's words: "Pray always." From these words a myriad of practices developed. Monasticism grew, challenged to be faithful to his words; in the towns people gathered at churches for prayer.

The Liturgy of the Hours grew out of these two practices. Two forms of expression came about, one a monastic observance of special hours of the day and the other a cathedral or parochial observance. Each of these observances marked the key times of prayer although with a different use of the psalter.

The following text is from the Cathedral Church of Sarum. It is Compline, the last of the hours of prayer; it is night prayer for the Feast of Nativity.

This prayer has three traditional focuses, the first is the examination of conscience and the prayer for protection throughout the night. The second focus is related to the night watch. Here the Church stands vigil for the return of the bridegroom, ever awake and ready for the herald of his coming. The final aspect relates to the crucifixion. Compline parallels the anointing and wrapping of Christ's body. A text from 1538 describes this final focus:

The hope of our life ever to endure
Of Jesu the noble and blessed body,
At Compline time was brought to the Sepulcre,

Spiced and adorned fragrant and sweetly.
Of scripture complete was then the Mystery.
Therefore, Jesu, grant we by thy wounds tender,
And thy death busily still to remember.

In the introduction to the 1852 edition, the editor notes that Saint Augustine introduced the observation of the hours of prayers into the cathedral churches of England. But these were not consolidated into the present seven hours until after 1200.

This text is a compilation from two sources: one published in 1516 by Byrkman, at Paris, and the second by C. Chevallon in 1531. The psalter is that of the Vulgate. The hymnody comes from Anglo-Saxon sources found in a collection published by Darling in 1850. Other elements such as the antiphons come from the Latin edition of the Sarum Psalter published by Leslie at London in 1842.

J.N.

EARTH ONE BRIEF HOUR
DOTH
ELEVATE TO HEAVEN

GLORIA IN ALTIS

IN THE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

AT COMPLINE

Hymn

Lo! He whom Seers primeval sung,
In glad unison of old;
Whom Prophets, in each faithful page,
With presaging lips foretold;
Shines forth on his long promised road;
Creation, hail thy coming God!
From age to age.
Heaven utters forth a Psalm on high,
All Angels wake the Psalm of praise,
All Virtues, Powers, in one to God,
Loud the adoring Anthem raise;
No voice be mute His Name to tell,
All tongues the mighty chorus swell,
From age to age.
To Thee, O Christ! Father to Thee!
And The Holy Spirit be,
Hymns, Worship, Laud, and Melody,
Thanksgiving everlastingly,
Honour, and Power, and Victory,
Kingdom and Might eternally,
From age to age.

Convert us, O God, our Salvation!
And turn away thine anger from us.

O God! make speed to save me.
O Lord! make haste to help me.

Glory be to The Father, and to The Son:
and to The Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Alleluya.

Antiphon
There is born to us this day a Saviour,
Who is Christ The Lord, in the city of David.
Who reigns for all ages unto the ages. Amen.

Psalm IV
When I called, The God of my righteousness
heard me: in my tribulation Thou has enlarged me.
Have mercy upon me:
and hearken unto my prayer.
O ye sons of men, how long will ye be dull of
heart?: Why do ye love vanity, and seek after lying?
And know ye that The Lord hath made
wondrous His Holy One:
The Lord will hear me when I cry unto Him.
Be ye angry, and sin not:

be ye grieved for what ye say in your hearts,
and in your chambers.

Offer the sacrifice of righteousness,
and put your trust in The Lord:
many say Who showeth us good?

There is shown forth upon us
the light of thy countenance, O Lord!:
Thou hast put gladness in my heart.

In the fruit of their corn, and wine, and oil:
they are multiplied.

In peace in the very same:
I will sleep and take my rest.

For Thou, O Lord! especially in hope:
hast established me.

Glory be to The Father, and to The Son:
and to The Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Oration

Hear us, O Lord! we beseech Thee,
and in our tribulations pity us; and do Thou,
Who art alone magnified among the Gentiles,
grant to us spiritual gladness, give us everlasting peace,
and establish us in the hope of future joys,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm XXX

In thee, O Lord! have I put my trust,
I shall never be confounded:
deliver me in thy righteousness.
Bow down thine ear to me:
make haste to deliver me.
Be thou unto me a God protector,
and a house of refuge:
that Thou mayst save me.
For Thou art my strength and my refuge:
and because of Thy Name
Thou wilt guide me and nourish me.
Thou shalt draw me out of the snare
that they have laid privily for me:
for Thou art my protector.
Into thy hands I commend my spirit:
for Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord!
Thou God of truth!
Glory be to The Father, and to The Son:
and to The Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Oration

Most Gracious God! we humbly intreat
the abundance of thy goodness;
that, while we search for thy truth,

we may tread under foot the hateful swellings
of pride, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Psalm XC

Whoso dwelleth under the help of The Most High:
shall abide under the protection
of The God of Heaven.

He will say unto The Lord,
Thou art my upholder and my refuge:
my God! I will put my trust in Him.

For He hath delivered me
from the snare of the hunter:
and from the harsh word.

He will overshadow thee with his shoulders:
and under his wings thou shalt trust.

His truth shall compass thee with a buckler:
and thou shalt not be afraid of terror by night.

Of the arrow that flieth by day,
of that which walketh about in darkness:
of any assault, or of the demon of noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side,
and ten thousand at thy right hand:
but it shall not come nigh thee.

Nevertheless, with thine eyes shalt thou consider:
and behold the recompense of sinners.

For Thou, Lord! art my hope:
Thou hast made The Most High thy refuge.

There shall no evil thing approach thee:
neither shall the scourge come nigh thy dwelling.
For He hath given his Angels charge over thee:
to keep thee in all thy ways.
They shall bear thee in their hands:
lest haply thou hurt thy foot against a stone.
Thou shalt walk upon the asp and the basilisk:
thou shalt tread down under foot the lion
and the dragon.
Because he hath trusted in Me, I will deliver him:
I will protect him, because he hath known My Name.
He hath called unto Me,
and I will hearken unto him:
yea, I am with him in trouble,
I will deliver him, and will glorify him.
With length of days will I fulfil him:
and I will shew him my salvation.

Oration

Grant us, O Lord! we intreat Thee,
through the invocation of Thy Name,
to tread under foot the noisome poison
of the asp and the dragon; so that thy salvation
may be shewn forth unto us,
and that we may be sheltered by the defence
of thy spiritual shield from all the wiles
of the enemy, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm CXXXIII

Behold now, bless ye The Lord:
all ye servants of The Lord.

Ye that stand in the House of The Lord:
in the courts of the House of our God.

By night lift up your hands in the Sanctuary:
and bless ye The Lord.

The Lord give thee blessing out of Syon:
Who made Heaven and Earth.

Glory be to The Father, and to The Son:
and to The Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Oration

O Almighty Lord! we thy servants bless
and intreat Thee, that Thou wouldest bless us
who are now enveloped in the night of this Earth;
so that we may lift up our hands in good works,
and from Thee obtain a plenteous blessing,
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Antiphon

There is born to us this day a Saviour,
Who is Christ The Lord, in the City of David.

Who reigns for all ages unto the ages. Amen.

Chapter, Jeremiah XIV

Thou, O Lord! art in us:
and we are called by Thy Holy Name;
forsake us not, O Lord our God!
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Saviour of man! whose kindly care
Hath kept us in the day that's past:
Protect us through the coming night,
And save us, long as time shall last.

Thy gracious presence now vouchsafe,
And mercy to our prayers accord:
O blot out all our past offence,
And lighten Thou our darkness, Lord!

May slumber ne'er the soul oppress,
No vexing foes our rest invade:
And by no spot of sin, we pray,
The guarded flesh impure be made.

Restorer of our every sense!
Our hearts we lift in prayer to Thee,
That when again from sleep we rise,
Our souls devout and pure may be.

Glory to God The Father give!
And to His One begotten Son!

With Thee, Blest Spirit Paraclete!
Now and while endless ages run. Amen.

Preserve us, O Lord!
As the apple of an eye,
protect us under the shadow of thy wings.

Antiphon
Alleluya. The Word was made Flesh.
Alleluya. And dwelt among us. Alleluya. Alleluya.

The Canticle of Simeon. Luke ii
Now lettest Thou, O Lord! thy servant depart:
in peace, according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy Salvation.
Which Thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people.
To be a Light to lighten the Gentiles:
and the Glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to The Father, and to The Son:
and to The Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Antiphon
Alleluya. The Word was made Flesh.
Alleluya. And dwelt among us. Alleluya. Alleluya.

Oration

O Lord! Who didst fulfil the expectation
of the righteous Simeon, perfect, we beseech Thee,
thy grace in us; that, as he saw not death until
he was worthy to behold The Lord Christ,
so we may obtain eternal life, through The Same
our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth
with The Father in the Unity of The Holy Ghost,
God, for evermore. Amen.

Petitions

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Our Father which art in Heaven;
Hallowed be Thy Name: Thy kingdom come:
Thy will be done, as in Heaven, so on earth.
Give us this day our daily bread:
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors:
And lead us not into temptation:
But deliver us from evil.

Hail Mary ! Full of grace, The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women ;
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb ! Jesus ! Amen.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now, and in the hour of death !

In peace, in the very same
I will sleep and take my rest.

I believe in God, The Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, our Lord :
who was conceived by The Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified,
dead and buried : He descended into hell :
the third day He rose again from the dead :
He ascended to the heavens :
He sitteth at the right hand of God,
The Father Almighty : whence He shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in The Holy Ghost ;
the Holy Catholic Church ; the Communion
of Saints, the Remission of Sins,
the Resurrection of the Flesh, and Life eternal.
Amen.

Let us praise and highly extol Him, for ever.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord!
in the firmament of Heaven.
And greatly to be praised, and Glorious,
and highly exalted for ever.
The Almighty and merciful Lord,
bless and preserve us. Amen.

Let us confess unto The Lord, for He is good.
And his mercy endureth for ever.

I confess to God, The Blessed Mary,
and all the Saints, and to you,
I have sinned exceedingly, in thought, word,
and deed, of my own fault.
I beseech Holy Mary, all the Saints of God,
and ye to pray for me.

Almighty God, have mercy upon you,
and forgive you all your sins,
deliver you from all evil, preserve and strengthen you
in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life.
Amen.
The Almighty and Merciful Lord grant you
Absolution and Remission of all your sins,
space for true penitence, amendment of life,
and the grace and consolation of The Holy Spirit.
Amen.

O God ! be Thou turned, and Thou shalt quicken us.
And thy people shall rejoice in Thee.

O Lord ! shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

Vouchsafe, O Lord ! in this night
to keep us without sin.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord !
Have mercy upon us.

Let thy mercy, O Lord ! be upon us.
Like as we have put our trust in Thee.

O Lord God of Hosts ! convert us.
And shew us thy countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord ! hear my prayer.
And let my crying come unto Thee.

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.
Enlighten our darkness, we beseech Thee,
O Lord God !
and all the perils of this night do
Thou graciously turn away from us,

Save us, O Almighty God!
and grant us thy perpetual light,
through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son,
Who with Thee liveth and reigneth
in The Unity of The Holy Ghost, God,
world without end. Amen.

Psalm CXXII

Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes:
O Thou that dwellest in the Heavens.
Behold as the eyes of servants:
look unto the hand of their masters,
And as the eyes of a maiden
unto the hands of her mistress:
even so our eyes unto The Lord our God,
until He have mercy upon us.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord!
have mercy upon us:
for we are greatly filled with contempt.
Our soul is greatly filled with the scorning
of the wealthy:
and with the despitefulness of the proud.
Glory be to The Father, and to The Son:
and to The Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Oration

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God:
that the new birth of Thy Only Begotten
through the flesh, may deliver us
whom the ancient servitude detaineth
under the yoke of sin, Who with Thee liveth
and reigneth in the Unity of The Holy Ghost,
God, world without end. Amen.

May the souls of the faithful,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.

Bless we The Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Thou, ere the Sixth great Age had ran,
Of Virgin womb wast born for man;
Grant, when the last Eighth Time shall come,
We reach in Heaven a glorious home!
And as this Hour, O Saviour blest,
Thou on the mystic well didst rest;
Bedew us with the fount of thine,
And light us with thy Sun divine.
Grant this, Thou God in Trinity!
One and Co-equal Deity;
To whom Praise, Glory, Virtue be,
Now and throughout eternity. Amen.

This is the Thirty-fifth Edition of The North Central Christmas Book. The text was compiled by Sister Mary Alice Muellerleile C.S.J. from *The Psalter, or Seven ordinary Hours of Prayer according to the use of the Illustrious and Excellent Church of Sarum*, London, 1852. The illustrations are from *Lettere Spirituali de la Devota Religiosa Angelica Paula Antonia*, Milan, 1549. The introduction was written by Father James Notebaart. It was designed by Frank Kacmarcik and set in Linotype Granjon, and printed on Ultima text. Of the eleven hundred copies printed this is number 318